

Message Text

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FOR: IOP/M, IPS, IBS, IWE

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION-FORD'S BUDGET PROPOSAL.

IN REPORTS FEBRUARY 4 AND 5, AFTENPOSTEN'S WASHINGTON
CORRESPONDENT STEIN SAVIL ECHOES NAGATIVE REACTIONS
FROM AMERICAN PRESS ON PRESIDENT FORD'S BUDGET PROP-
OSALS.

"THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR 1975/76 SHOWS
THE HIGHEST DEFICIT SINCE THE WAR YEAR 1943" , HE
WRITES, ADDING THAT NO NOTICEABLE IMPROVEMENTS IN
THE NATION'S ECONOMY WILL BE FELT BEFORE THE END OF
1976. SAVIK STRESSES THAT SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEFENSE
ARE THE BIGGEST BUDGET ITEMS.

SAVIK ALSO DETAILS TAX REDUCTIONS, WHICH HE SAYS ARE
PART OF PRESIDENT'S FORD'S PROGRAM TO "BLOW NEW LIFE
INTO THE ECONOMY". AND HE REPORTS THAT THE PRES-
IDENT BELIEVES THE NEED FOR NEW ENERGY RESOURCES
IS SO PRESSING THAT IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO MAKE AN
EXCEPTION TO HIS PREVIOUS PROMISE OF NO NEW EXPEND-
ITURES THIS FISCAL YEAR.

"ONE CONCLUSION THAT CAN BE DRAWN FROM PRESIDENT FORD'S
"HEARTLESS AND GLOOMY" BUDGET PROPOSAL IS THAT HE
HAS MORE OR LESS WRITTEN HIS OWN DEATH-CERTIFICATE."
SAVIK SAYS, QUOTING FROM THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.
HE NOTES THAT THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET HAS DRAWN
CRITICISM FROM BOTH DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS AND
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SAYS THE PRESIDENT HAS GONE TO ATLANTA TO GAIN SUPPORT
IN THE PROVINCES OF HIS PROPOSALS.

" THE MAINCRITICISM IS THAT HE IS NOT USING THE ECONOMY TO CREATE NEW JOBS FOR THE UNEMPLOYED. THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN IN LINE WITH THE TRADITIONAL DEMOCRATIC POLICIES," HE SAYS. FORD'S CONSERVATIVE COLLEAGUES SAY THE OPPOSITE AND ACCUSE THE PRESIDENT OF USING THE NATION'S FINANCES TO STIMULATE THE ECONOMY. THEY ALSO CRITICIZE HIM FOR THE RECORD HIGH BUDGET DEFICIT OF 52 BILLION DOLLARS.

SAVIK ALSO MENTIONED THAT, "REPUBLICAN SENATOR ROBERT DOLE, IN A RADIOO INTERVIEW, SAID THAT IN VIEW OF THE CRITICISM OF THE BUDGET PROPOSAL, IT WOULD BE BEST IF THE REPUBLICIANS DID NOT ATTEMPT TO PRESENT A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE IN NEXT YEAR'S ELECTIONS."

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